

Recreation Commission Minutes - FINAL
Jul 16, 2014

Chairman Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Attendance:

Chairman John Lembeck; Commissioners: Dan Bavuso, Kerry Chandler, Jim Dengler, Sharon Greener, and Councilman Ben Day were present; Mike Cecil and Robert McGinty were absent. Borough Administrator Tom Rogers and Recreation Director Sarah Orsay were also present.

Public comment portion:

There were no members of the public present.

Chairman's Announcements

Chairman Lembeck thanked the members for coming and explained that this was a specially called meeting to address specific topics: Review of Rec Commission Mission and Structure; P RTP; and Travel Policies. Regular reports would be resumed at the August meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Lembeck called for the approval of the May and June Minutes. Ms. Greener made a motion to approve the May minutes, Mr. Bavuso seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Greener also called for the approval of the June Minutes, Mr. Dengler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Commission Mission and Structure

The meeting opened with a discussion of the Recreation Commission's (RC) mission and structure and various roles. Mr. Rogers, the Borough Administrator, reminded those present that the Recreation Commission is a policy making Board made up of community volunteers appointed by the Mayor, whose mission it is to set policy and provide strategic direction, which is then implemented and administered by the Recreation Director.

Mr. Rogers congratulated the RC on the new initiatives that had occurred recently, but suggested that with the breadth of the current program it may make sense for the RC to set up formal Committees, which may change over time depending on the prevailing need. Examples of possible Committees were provided such as Finance, Parks, Travel Sports, Crew, Summer Programs, Special Projects, Special Events, Personnel, etc. These Committees would be made up of three or fewer Commissioners who would have inter-meeting discussions as necessary and then make recommendations to the RC. The Committees would also serve to address inter-meeting, time sensitive issues. Mr. Lembeck asked the Commissioners to consider for the August meeting which Committees might make sense and who might be on them.

P RTP (Piping Rock Turf Project)

Ms. Orsay and Mr. Rogers reviewed the Monmouth County Open Space Grant application process and upcoming deadlines. The grant is due Weds, Sep 17. Key next steps are arranging formal meetings with the Martello family and the Keith D. McHeffey Foundation ("KDM") members to review the proposal and seek their input. Mr. Cecil had earlier indicated that he would approach the KDM Board members on the Borough's behalf and seek to arrange a meeting to review the plans. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Dengler agreed to reach out to the Martello family.

Mr. Rogers reviewed the preliminary design, including showing schematics of the current space and the proposed alterations. He indicated that a public hearing would be held in late August or early September.

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The Commission also discussed the merits and challenges of incorporating a 46/60 baseball diamond into the turf field and the potential impact on RFH Softball and Rec and Travel baseball would be if the Piping Rock diamond were eliminated. No final recommendation was made on this point. Mr. Day pointed out that a baseball diamond could be incorporated at any point prior to construction.

Travel Policies – Key Discussion Questions

Mr. Lembeck raised the topic of the Commission's on-going Travel Sports Policies discussions. Ms. Chandler raised a motion that the Rec Commission only allow one professional trainer per week for Rumson Soccer Club teams. Further, a certified coach or parent with the required certifications must be present during training sessions. In the ensuing discussion Ms. Chandler indicated that the topic had been discussed by the Commission numerous times over the past year, particularly in recent months, and that the professionalization of our travel soccer program had gotten out of hand. It was noted that several RSC soccer teams have completely outsourced all coaching responsibilities to professionals who were completely unknown in person and qualifications/certifications to the Commission and the Recreation Department, and that more teams were heading this direction. Using professional (i.e., paid) coaches who do not meet the Borough's three certification requirements (Background check, Rutgers, Concussion) is in and of itself a violation of several long-held Recreation policies. Mr. Rogers pointed out that this construct created a personal liability for the coaches, since they were independently hiring and paying trainers, completely independent of the Recreation Department. Mr. Bavuso seconded the motion and all Commissioners present agreed and the vote passed unanimously. It was agreed that this policy be implemented immediately and that there be no grandfathering of teams – all teams must comply in the Fall 2014. While acknowledging that it was a permissible vote because there was a quorum, Mr. Lembeck expressed discomfort at having this vote in the absence of Mr. McGinty who is the Rumson Soccer Club Coordinator. Those present acknowledged Mr. McGinty's critical role in the RSC program and also that he had expressed a view in favor of professional trainers so likely would be opposed to the motion. However, those present concluded that the topic had been discussed in depth numerous times before in his presence and they wanted to move forward and have it implemented immediately before more teams abandoned the volunteer coach model.

Mr. Lembeck asked Ms. Orsay to prepare a memo to the Rumson Soccer Club Coaches announcing the new policy.

Crew

Mr. Lembeck provided an update on the Fall Crew program. He indicated that as of now there would be no full-time coach, but rather several part time coaches and that the program would be structured around their availability. Mr. Rogers updated the Commissioners on the discussions between the Mayor and the High School and that it was finally agreed that the High School would pay approximately \$17,500 to the Borough for the Spring program. This was less than the \$21K originally agreed upon, but deemed acceptable under the circumstances.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Orsay